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Bay Area lawmakers join war-probe call

Members of Congress want release of U.S. intelligence that outlines Iraq's weapons programs

By STAFF REPORTS

Friday, June 06, 2003 - Several Bay Area members of Congress have signed on to co-sponsor a resolution demanding the release of U.S. intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction that Bush administration officials used to justify going to war.

This resolution of inquiry, introduced Thursday by presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, requires the House committee to which it is assigned to respond within 14 days. The co-sponsors included Reps. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland; Pete Stark, D-Fremont; George Miller, D-Martinez; Lynn Woolsey, D-San Rafael; and Mike Honda, D-San Jose.

"The American people deserve to know the truth," Lee said. "The Bush administration told ... the world that Iraq had tens of thousands of biological and chemical weapons."

Yet U.S. troops have searched hundreds of sites and found no such weapons, she said. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was recently quoted as saying the administration "for bureaucratic reasons" seized upon the weapons issue to build unified support for the war.

"This nation shouldn't be going to war because it was the one reason everyone in the administration could agree on," Lee said. "That is a travesty of justice. Truth was definitely the first casualty in this war."